

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 NSC-05 SSM-03 DHA-02  
ORM-02 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 INRE-00  
SSO-00 MCT-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
/104 W

-----016362 211338Z /46

O 211242Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7504

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

NSC WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EG US XF

SUBJECT: INITIAL EGYPTIAN REACTION TO BEGIN VISIT

REF: CAIRO 12061

SUMMARY: NO OFFICIAL PUBLIC REACTION TO CARTER-BEGIN TALKS  
YET. PRESS REPORTS LIMITED WHILE NEW GOE POSITION ON  
RETURN JEWS PLAYED UP. RESTRAINED COVERAGE REFLECTS  
OFFICIAL GUIDANCE. GOE AWARE U.S. WANTS ENSURE PUBLIC  
CORDIALITY OF U.S.-ISRAELI TALKS BUT FEELS HIGHLY EX-  
POSED AND WILL SOON NEED PUBLIC ASSURANCE THAT USG NOT  
RETREATING FROM "ENCOURAGING" POSITION IT HAS TAKEN.  
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END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN-CARTER TALKS AND OTHER ASPECTS MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM  
ACCORDED ONLY TERTIARY PROMINENCE BY CAIRO PRESS JULY 21. THERE  
HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL PUBLIC GOE REACTION THUS FAR. FRONT PAGES RE-  
PORTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SAID "SHARP DIFFERENCES" CONTINUE  
EXIST BETWEEN ARAB AND ISRAELI VIEWPOINTS, BUT THAT PROSPECTS

NEVERTHELESS GOOD FOR RECONVENING MEPC IN OCTOBER. NOTES ALSO PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT SECRETARY VANCE WILL LEAVE FOR MIDDLE EAST TOUR AUGUST 1. MAKES NO MENTION OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON "TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS."

2. AKHBAR FRONT-PAGED LATE ITEM ON BEGIN OPPOSITION TO PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE AND REPORTED BEGIN IGNORED WITHDRAWAL ISSUE AND EVADED QUESTIONS ON IT. NOTED HIS CONCEPT OF PEACE INCLUDES MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC AND TOURIST RELATIONS. AKHBAR SAW BEGIN POSITION AS "UNMASKING HIS TRUE FACE" AND CLAIMED THAT ALL ARABS TOTALLY REJECT BEGIN PLAN. AHAM TOOK SOME SATISFACTION, HOWEVER, IN REPORTING WRANGLE BETWEEN BEGIN AND SENATOR ABUOUREZK WHO REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED BEGIN'S ATTITUDE ON PLO AND STATED PLO HAS LEGITIMACY IRGUN NEVER ACCORDED. SENATOR REPORTEDLY REFERRED TO "HORRIBLE MASSACRES" PERPETRATED BY IRGUN.

3. AHAM, APPARENTLY SENSITIVE ABSENCE ANY PUBLIC REFERENCE JULY 20 TO US-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES, CLAIMED TO HAVE LEARNED THAT US AND ISRAEL STILL FAR APART. WHITE HOUSE AND DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY SPENT LONG HOURS STUDYING BEGIN PROPOSALS AND EVALUATED AGREEMENT AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO SIDES. DREDGED UP APPARENTLY EARLIER STATEMENT (I.E. AFTER FIRST ROUND OF TALKS) BY PRESIDENT THAT CERTAIN DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS RESOLVED BUT THAT "MANY OTHER ISSUES REMAIN TO BE SOLVED." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. MEANWHILE NEW EGYPTIAN POSITION ON JEWISH EMIGRES PLAYED IP. PAPERS CLAIMED THAT GOE COMMITTED TO ENCOURAGEMENT OF THEIR RETURN. FAHMY QUOTED AS SAYING DECISION PART OF COMPREHENSIVE EGYPTIAN PLAN TO BRING ABOUT JUST AND STABLE PEACE. ALL EGYPTIAN EMBASSIES INSTRUCTED TO ENCOURAGE RETURN OF JEWS. STEP TAKEN IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER ARABS AND PLO, ACCORDING TO FAHMY, AND PROVES THAT ARABS SEEKING TO MOVE TOWARD JUST PEACE.

5. AKHBAR EDITORIALIZED IN FAMILIAR TERMS ON SADAT'S "CLEAR, RESPONSIBLE AND COURAGEOUS POSITION" WHICH WILL, IF ISRAEL ADHERES TO INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY, ALLOW IT TO LIVE AS MIDDLE EAST STATE WITH RECOGNIZED BORDERS FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY. EGYPT "KEEN ON PEACE" AND WILL PURSUE IT "REGARDLESS OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND PROCRASTINATION."

6. COMMENT: PRESS STILL RESTRAINED WHICH REFLECTS OFFICIAL GUIDANCE. EGYPTIANS WELL AWARE OF USG EFFORTS ENSURE PUBLIC CORDIALITY OF BEGIN-CARTER TALKS. EGYPTIANS WILL, HOWEVER, SOON FEEL NEED FOR SOME PUBLIC REASSURANCE THAT U.S. HAS NOT RETREATED FROM WHAT HAS BEEN WIDELY PERCEIVED AS ENCOURAG-

ING ADMINISTRATION POSTURE. GOE CONSIDERS ITSELF HIGHLY  
EXPOSED AND HAS A LARGE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CONSTITUENCY  
WHICH IS HOPEFUL OF OUR UNDERSTANDING BUT FEARFUL THAT WHAT IS  
PERCEIVED AS OLD PATTERN OF U.S. COLLAPSE IN FACE OF ISRAELI  
PRESSURES NOW RE-ASSERTING ITSELF.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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